

FOR THE
GODPARENT



GUIDELINES

You as a godparent have been chosen to join in a spiritual way to the family of the child to be baptized and to represent the Church at the Baptism. Your presence at the celebration signifies your willingness to help the parents raise their child in the Catholic faith. You are also asked to join the parents in witnessing to the Catholic faith.

To fulfill the role, godparents must:

- Have completed the sixteenth year.
- Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and is regularly celebrating the sacrament of Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and role to be undertaken.
- Have a marriage sacramentally celebrated in the Catholic Church (if married).
- Not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

You have been asked to be a godparent. By responding "yes," you have accepted a commitment to the faith life of a child and a relationship with the child's family. We ask that you consider seriously this responsibility.



ROLE OF GODPARENTS

Godparents serve two important functions: *They represent the larger church community.* They, along with the priest/deacon and the parents, welcome the child to the community and signify that welcome by marking the child with the sign of the cross.

In addition, *godparents pledge to continually support the parents,* and to be ready to help the parents, when appropriate, in the Catholic formation of their child. Even more than that, the godparent is to be an example to the child of how to live a Christian Life.

In the Roman Catholic rite of Baptism, until the late 1960's, there was much for the godparents to do within

the ceremony. Now, it is the parents who hold the baby and answer the questions. But the godparents, though they may not be at the center of things, still have an important part in the rite:

At the beginning, they are asked by the priest (or deacon) if they will help the parents in their duty as Christian parents.

During the ceremony the godparents renew their baptismal vows together with the parents.

During the ceremony the godparents place the baptismal garment on the child and light the baptismal candle which is presented to the parents.

